COPY.

W I T H E R N S E A U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L.

---oOo---

Withernsea.
May 21st 1921.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1920.

---oOo---

Gentlemen,

I beg to present herewith my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st 1920.

The Registrar-General has, as has been his custom since 1915, again undertaken the estimation of the Civil population of the District. On this occasion, seeing that demobilisation is now considered to be complete, he has estimated the population for the purposes of the Births and Death's rates in equal terms, and his figures are 3113.

BIRTHS:-

The number of births registered during the year was 62, of which 34 were Males and 28 Females, and the British Birth Rate per 1000 population is consequently 19.9. as compared with 25.4. for the whole of England and Wales in the same year.

DEATHS:-

There were 51 deaths, 38 Males and 23 Females and the net Death Rate is 16.3, as compared with 12.4. for the whole of England and Wales in 1920.

In regard to this comparatively high Death Rate I would draw your attention to the number of deaths from Tuberculosis i.e. 17.6.% of the whole, and to the fact as set out below that, of the total cases of Tuberculosis notified in 1920, 80% were "imported" cases, that is these persons came here while already suffering from the disease; In consequence of this, which obtains year after year, out Tuberculosis rates and our Death rates must continue abnormal.

Four persons died under the age of one year, giving an Infant Mortality rate of 64.5. per 1000 births registered, as compared with a rate of 80.0 for the whole of England and Wales in 1920.

The causes of these four deaths were :- Premature Birth= 2. Convulsions = 1. and Bronchitis = 1.

Two persons died aged 1 and under 5 years.

Four " " " 5 " " 15 "

Five " " " 15 " " 25 "

Sixteen" " " 25 " " 65 "

Eleven " " " 65 " " 75 "

Nine " " " 75 and over.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis caused 9. deaths.
Heart Disease ..... " 5. "
Cancer ..... " 3. "
Bronchitis ..... " 3. "
Diphtheria ..... " 2. "

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

35. cases of infectious disease were notified; viz:-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	20.
Other Tuberculsosis	1.
Pneumonia	9.
Diphtheria	4.
Scarlet Fever	1.

Of the 20 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 18 certainly came here, as already indicated, suffering from the disease, and indeed the majority of these came BECAUSE they were so suffering.

The four cases of Diphtheria occured in different localities, Two in January, one in February, and one in May. Two were fatal. All were treated and successfully isolated at their own homes, other members of the families being further protected by Antitoxin.

No sanitary defect was discovered to account for any of them.

The one case of Scarlet Fever occured in November and was of an exceedingly mild type.

In all cases of Infectious Disease, after concalsecence, removal, or death, the infected houses are disinfected by the Sanitary Authority or by the occupiers to my satisfaction. Disinfectants, are supplied gratis, where necessary, and, where there is fear of carring infection the children from infected houses are excluded from School.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

The East Riding County Council have provided an Isolation Hospital at Driffield which is now available for all infectious Diseases from the District.

WATER SUPPLY.

The public water supply was laid on to 94 additional dwelling houses during the year, bringing the number of dwelling houses thus supplied to 560 out of a total of 938.

The amount of water used still remains far below the amount paid for. The agreement with the Hull Corporation is to a miniumn of 55000 gallons per day (at 1/3 per _ 1000) The total consumption for the year amounted to 13,599,000 galls and the quantity to be paid for annually amounts to 20,075,000 gallons. This water is of excellant quality, the supply is continious and the water has no plumbo-Solvent Action.

Fifteen samples of water (from wells) were sent for analysis and 14 wells were closed as unsafe.

SANITATION.

Six defective privies were inspected and the defects remedided in all cases.

Thirty seven privies were converted into W.Cs.

One defective house drain was inspected and the defects remedided.

SANITATION CONTD.

Nine house drains were relaid.

Six nuisances were found and remedided.

Two nuisances from animals were abated.

NIGHT SOIL.

The collection of nightsoil and house refuse continues to be done by contract. The former is taken out of the District by the contractors and disposed of for agricultural pupposes. The latter is dumped in the District in a field adjoining the Hull Road. This is a very undesir able arrangement.

DAIRIES & COWSHEDS.

There are eight dairies and cowsheds on the register; These were inspected seven times and on all occasions were found clean and in good order. Lime washing was done twice a year.

There are twenty two cows. Samples of Milk offered for sale continue to be taken from time to time by the County Council's Inspector, for analysis. No action was taken in regard to Tuberculous milk.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are three slaughter houses in the District and these were inspected three times and found in a satisfactory condition. There is no Inspector with a special Certificate for meat inspection. No meat was condemned as Tubersular.

SCHOOLS.

The Public Elementary Council Schools are in all respects modern and up to date and are in excellant condition. They have the public water supply.

General INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

In addition to inspections made in special circumstances I made a gen ral inspection of the whole District in June and Nov. with your Surveyor, and the general sanitary condition was found to be satisfactory. There are no Common Lodging-Houses, no Offensive Trades and no special Industary in the District.

HOUSING.

Twelve new houses were built during the year.

The housing of Artisans is good. The air space is and general cleanliness of the houses and their surroundings are, good.

There are, as mentioned in my report for 1918, some twenty houses which are most undesir able in size and construction and which in some cases very nearly approach being altogether unfit for habitation. Owing to the continued shortage of houses there is a tendancy to overcrowding in many cases, two families frequently occuping one house, for the simple reason, that they cannot otherwise obtain shelter.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b3028739x

HOUSING CONTD.

There is no doubt that the District greatly needs more houses, and would be greatly benifited by the building of the houses under the scheme asked for by the Ministry of Health.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A.E.Sproulle.

Medical Officer of Health.